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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8433

INFO RUEHDL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RHMFIUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

RHEFDHN/DIA DH WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

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SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE PASS EUR/WE AND S/CT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER PGOV PREL BE

SUBJECT: BELGIUM FIVE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS TO BE HELD FOR  
30 DAYS, SIXTH APPEALING

REF: BRUSSELS 1870

¶1. (SBU) A Brussels Court decided January 7 to extend for a period of 30 days the detention period of five of the six suspected terrorists held since December 11, 2008. The sixth, Jean-Cristophe Trefois, a Belgian citizen who converted to radical Islam will be held for 15 days, after prosecutors appealed the court's decision to release him. The six suspects were part of a larger group of fourteen detained for questioning (reftel) December 11 for alleged ties to Al Qaeda and evidence that they were planning a terrorist attack; the other eight suspects were released the following day for lack of evidence.

¶2. (SBU) The five who will be held at least 30 more days are:

Malika El-Aroud: radical extremist, alleged jihadist recruiter, and sponsor of a radical website. She was married to one of the suicide attackers who murdered Afghan general Massood in 2001.

Hicham Beyayo: alleged suicide attacker.

Abdelaziz Abdullah Bastin: son of a local cab driver who converted to Islam and has propagated extremists standpoints.

Youssef Arissi

Ali El-Ghannouti

BUSH

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